

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN



**Sunday Service of Worship
January 3, 2021 – Celebration of The Epiphany
10:30 a.m.**

**Meeting ID: 997 8744 0701
Passcode: 623169
Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656**

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN
January 3, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.
Celebration of The Epiphany

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Deacon Barbara Small

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from Isaiah 60:1-6)

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

***For darkness shall cover the Earth,
but the Lord will arise upon you.***

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

***Then you shall see and be radiant.
Your heart shall thrill and rejoice.***

A multitude of camels shall cover you.
All those from Sheba shall come.

***They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.***

HYMN # 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold.
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright.
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.*

*As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom Heaven and Earth adore.
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our Heavenly King.*

*Holy Jesus, every day, keep us in the narrow way.
And, when Earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, You sent a star to guide the men from the East to the place where the baby lay. You helped them to understand the significance of what they saw and allowed them to decide wisely on the best road to take home. We confess that there have been times when we turn a blind eye to the guidance You give. We take wrong paths diverted from the moral road, choosing instead a lesser code to live by. Help us, O God. Have mercy on us, and lead us by a brighter star. In Your Son's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 68 (verse 1)

*What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King, glad tidings of our God to bring.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 68 (verse 2)

*'Tis now fulfilled, that God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed."
And lo! The Eastern sages stand to read in Heaven the Lord's command.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn
497 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 68 (verse 3)

*O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek Your face.
Let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of Your light to use.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For all we have gathered through our toil, we give You thanks, O God. May the ministries we support through our offerings fulfill Your expectations of us here in this community and wherever You direct us to act. We seek to make a difference in the world. Use us and our gifts to establish Your realm. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

“The Truth about the Wise Men”

Rev. Dr. Van Cleef

COMMUNION HYMN

HOLY MANNA

All Who Hunger; Gather Gladly

*All who hunger, gather gladly, holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, sing together: Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, we thank You that when the star in the sky is gone, the kings and princes are home, the shepherds are back with their flocks, and we are tempted to pack the story away. This very Bread and Cup gives us the hope and courage to begin the true work of Christmas. Help us to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, and to bring peace among all. Amen.

*HYMN # 66

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.*

*Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High.*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the Earth and skies.*

*O – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

*Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God, our Creator, we are family.*
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND JOYS

(*Original words: *With God as our Father, brothers all are we.*)

Congregational Meeting

There will be a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, January 17, with four items on the agenda:

- (1) Our current *Church Operations Manual* allows for changes to be made to our Bylaws with only Session approval. We have been informed by Presbytery that this is contrary to Presbyterian polity; changes to the Bylaws must be approved by the entire congregation at a Congregational Meeting. We need to change the wording in our *Church Operations Manual* to reflect this.
- (2) Our current bylaws cite references to the 2014 – 2018 *Book of Order*. The citations need to be changed to reflect the *Book of Order 2019 – 2021*.
- (3) The Presbytery has informed us that we need to put something in our bylaws making it “legal” to hold Congregational Meetings via Zoom in case of inclement weather or pandemic situations.
- (4) Because we are a small church, we want to try a unicameral system of church governance (in other words, one Board) on a trial basis for one year.

This Board will be called The Session, and will consist of current eligible Session members, plus our current Deacons, who will be ordained as Elders. Anyone who has been ordained as a Presbyterian Deacon in the past will be invited to serve as a Deacon in this church, taking on any task to which he or she feels called, the difference being that the Deacons will be overseen by the Congregational Care Committee, as opposed to being an independent Board. We will evaluate this system in November of 2021, and will call a Congregational Meeting in early January of 2022 to vote on either continuing with a unicameral Board, or going back to a bicameral Board system. This change has been discussed with our General Presbyter Rev. Mark Tammen, who has given it his blessing.

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef
pastorannsutton@yahoo.com

Administrative Assistant

Linda J. Siegmann
fpcgoffice@gmail.com

Director of Music

Leonora Colletti

Fellowship Director

Debbie Eitel

Custodian

Gary Prentiss

Treasurer

James Dean

Financial Secretary

Betty Chatfield

Benevolence Secretary

Susan Perrotta

OUR SERVING BOARDS

SESSION

Class of 2020

Susan Perrotta
Diane Kirchoff
Ruth Satterlee

Class of 2021

Betty Chatfield
Debbie Eitel

Class of 2022

DEACONS

Class of 2020

Corinne Burdett
Larry Foray – Moderator

Class of 2021

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach

Class of 2022

Gary Prentiss
George Santos